Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00101 301742Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 /080 W
----------044264 301825Z /72
P 301530Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1286
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0101

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CA, US
SUBJ: RENE IN SEARCH OF UNCLE SAM'S GALLIC SOUL

1. RENE LEVESQUE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN INTERVIEW WITH CANADIAN PRESS AGENCY AN INTENSIFICATION OF GOQ'S FOREIGN INFOMATION PROGRAM. PRINCIPAL GOALS OF INCREASED EFFORT WILL BE:
--TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING FOR QUEBEC'S POLITICAL OBJECTIVES;
--TO COUNTER "UNHEALTHY PROPAGANDA" NOW BEING SPREAD ABROAD BY ENEMIES OF SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION; AND
--TO CALM "CERTAIN APPREHENSIONS".
PRIORITY IS TO BE ACCORDED EFFORTS IN THE UNITED STATES. LEVESQUE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DOLS ONE MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED BY GOQ TO A PROGRAM AIMED AT "INFORMING AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ON CONDITIONS IN QUEBEC" (SEE ALSO 77 QUEBEC 0388). PARTICULAR TARGET WILL BE FRANCO-AMERICANS OF QUEBEC ANCESTRY, WHO ARE NOW GENERALLY CONCENTRATED ON EAST COAST OF US. THESE "OLD TIES", LEVESQUE COMMENTED, ARE OFTEN MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THOSE BETWEEN CERTAIN PARTS OF CANADA AND QUEBEC. THE MORE UNDERSTANDING WE ENJOY, THE PREMIER ASSERTED, THE MORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00101 301742Z

"POTENTIAL SUPPORT" WE CAN COUNT ON WHEN INDEPENDENCE COMES.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR GREATER AUTONOMY FOR QUEBEC, BUT NOT FOR INDEPENDENCE. ON

PART OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL AND PRESIDENT OF FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY FRANCOIS MITTERAND, LEVESQUE BRUSQUELY RETORTED

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THAT THIS IS A "GENERAL ATTITUDE". PREMIER FURTHER ADMITTED
RELUCTANCE TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL CANADIAN AFFAIRS WAS ALSO
INHIBITNG FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING.

3. RETURNING TO MITTERAND, LEVESQUE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOQ
HAD INVITED THE SOCIALIST LEADER TO STOP OFF IN QUEBEC NEXT
AUTUMN ON HIS WAY TO THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN VANCOUVER. CAREFULLY AVOIDING POTENTIAL TRAPS, LEVESQUE
ASSERTED THAT GOQ WISHES TO ENJOY A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
FRENCH LEFT AS WITH ALL OTHER FRENCH POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT
WITHIN A POLITICAL CONTEXT. THIS IS NO WORSE, PREMIER QUIPPED,
THAN CONDUCT OF CANADIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS, WHICH WAS "ALL
HONEY AND SWEETNESS" TOWARDS THE LEFT, WHEN IT APPEARED LEFT
MIGHT TAKE POWER IN FRANCE. "WE HAVE A LITTLE FILE ON THAT
SUBJECT," HE SAID.

4. ASKED IF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PQ HAD NOT MANIFESTED
AN INTENTION TO JOIN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, LEVESQUE
COMMENTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF IT FOR YEARS WITHIN THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BUT NOTHING HAS EVER COME OF IT. THE PQ,
HE SAID, IS "MODERATE-LEFT". IT HAS AN AFFINITY WITH THE NDP
AS WELL AS RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ABOVE ALL IN

SCANDINAVIA. THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THESE RELATIONSHIPS
BE INSTITUTIONALIZED, BUT THIS SEEMS "PREMATURE" AT THE
MOMENT.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00101 301742Z

5. COMMENT: LEVESQUE'S COMMENTS ARE YET ANOTHER CONFIRMA-
TION OF GOQ INTENTIONS TO MOUNT A SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION
CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN ITS FAVOR.
PART OF THIS WILL NO DOUBT BE AIMED AT "CORRECTION PERNICIOUS
INACCURACIES" WHICH GOQ LEADERS CONTEND ARE FED TO AMERICAN

PRESS BY ANTAGONISITC ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS. ANOTHER
ASPECT OF GOQ EFFORT, HOWEVER, MAY BE DIRECTED AT AN ATTEMPT
TO CREATE A QUEBEC LOBBY IN THE US BUILT ON WHAT QUEBECOIS SEE
AS NATURAL AFFINITIES OF SIZEABLE FRANCO-AMERICAN POPULATION,
PARTICULARLY IN NEW ENGLAND. I BELIEVE THIS MAY HAVE BEEN
BEHIND LEVESQUE'S REMARKS CONCERNING "OLD TIES" QUEBEC RETAINS
WITH AMERICANS OF QUEBEC ANCESTRY, AND HIS USE OF EXPRESSION
"POTENTIAL SUPPORT" WITHIN THE US. IA AM GETTING DEFINITE
VIBES THAT THE SUCCESS ENJOYED BY VARIOUS ETHNIC LOBBIES
IN EXERTING INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON MAY NOT HAVE ESCAPED THE
QUEBECOIS.
MCNAMARA

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUEBEC00101
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780138-0651
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978038/aaaaagnu.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07d618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3364957
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENE IN SEARCH OF UNCLE SAM\'S GALLIC SOUL
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, PINT, CA, US, (LEVESQUE, RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07d618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014